

House Bill 539 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Hembree of the 67<sup>th</sup>, Brooks of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Bearden of the 68<sup>th</sup>, and Bruce of the 64<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend an Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Douglas County, approved  
2 February 15, 1952 (Ga. L. 1952, p. 2703), as amended, particularly by an Act approved  
3 March 6, 1990 (Ga. L. 1990, p. 3650), so as to provide for a residency qualification for  
4 members of the board of commissioners; to provide for preclearance under Section 5 of the  
5 federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 An Act creating the Board of Commissioners of Douglas County, approved February 15,  
10 1952 (Ga. L. 1952, p. 2703), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March 6, 1990  
11 (Ga. L. 1990, p. 3650), is amended by revising Section 2 as follows:

12 **"SECTION 2.**

13 There is created a Board of Commissioners of Douglas County which shall consist of four  
14 members and a chairperson. In order to be eligible to hold the office of chairperson or  
15 member of the board a person must have been a resident of Douglas County for 12 months  
16 preceding such person's election and must be a qualified voter entitled to vote for members  
17 of the General Assembly. The chairperson shall be elected by a majority vote of the  
18 qualified voters of the entire county voting in an election for such office. A candidate for the  
19 office of chairperson must be a resident of Douglas County at the time such person offers for  
20 election as chairperson. Each candidate for membership on the board shall be elected by a  
21 majority vote of the electors of the commissioner district voting in an election for such office.  
22 Each candidate for membership on the board must have been a resident of the commissioner  
23 district from which such candidate is to be elected for 12 months preceding such person's  
24 election and must be a current resident of the commissioner district from which such

25 candidate is to be elected at the time such person offers for election as a member of the  
26 board."

27 **SECTION 2.**

28 It shall be the duty of the Board of Commissioners of Douglas County to cause this Act to  
29 be submitted for preclearance pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965,  
30 as amended, 42 U.S.C. Section 1973c, within 45 days after its approval by the Governor or  
31 its becoming law without such approval.

32 **SECTION 3.**

33 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.